

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A print system, for printing read image data based on specified print setting, ~~said print system~~ comprising:
 - instruction means for specifying print setting;
 - image read means for reading an original image and converting the image into image data;
 - image processing means for performing predetermined image processing for the image data based on the specified print setting;
 - compression means for compressing ~~the read~~one of the image data read by the image read means and the image data processed by the image processing means and storing the compressed data in storage means;
 - decompression means for reading the compressed image data from the storage means and decompressing the data; and
 - ~~image processing means for performing predetermined image processing for the image data based on the specified print setting, thereby preparing print image data; and~~
 - control means for controlling compression and decompression timings of the image data in response to ~~the~~ contents of the image processing performed by said image processing means.

2. (currently amended) A print system according to claim 1, wherein:
the image processing contains enlargement processing and reduction processing of the
image data, ~~and wherein~~
said control means, when the image data undergoes the enlargement processing:
~~(1) if the image data undergoes the enlargement processing,~~
 (la) causes said compression means to compress and store the image data read by
said image read means;
 (lb) causes said decompression means to decompress the compressed image data;
and then
 (lc) causes said image processing means to perform enlargement processing of the
image data; and
~~(2) if the image data undergoes the reduction processing,~~ said control means, when the
image data undergoes the reduction processing:
 (2a) causes said image processing means to perform reduction processing of the
image data read by said image read means; and then
 (2b) causes said compression means to compress and store the image data.

3. (currently amended) A print system according to claim 2, wherein:
the image processing further ~~contains~~ includes enlargement split processing of
performing image layout so as to split enlarged image data into a plurality of print record media
for printing;

~~and the image processing further includes~~ reduction integration processing of performing image layout so as to print reduced image data collectively on one print record medium; ~~and wherein~~

said control means, when the image data undergoes the enlargement split processing:

~~(1) if the image data undergoes the enlargement split processing,~~

(1a) causes said compression means to compress and store the image data read by said image read means;

(1b) causes said decompression means to decompress the compressed image data;

and then

(1c) causes said image processing means to perform enlargement processing and enlargement split processing of the image data; and

said control means, when the image data~~(2) if the image data~~ undergoes the reduction integration processing;

(2a) causes said image processing means to perform reduction processing for the image data read by said image read means; ~~then~~

(2b) causes said compression means to compress and store the reduced image data; and then

(2c) causes said decompression means to decompress the compressed image data and then causes said image processing means to perform reduction integration processing of the image data.

4. (currently amended) A print system according to claim 1, wherein:
~~further including~~the system further comprises determination means for determining
whether or not a blank page occurs to perform the enlargement split processing, and
~~wherein if~~when it is determined that a blank page occurs, said control means cancels
print of the blank page.

5. (original) A print system according to claim 1, wherein said compression means can
compress the image data with more than one compression quality and selects the compression
quality to be used in response to the contents of the image processing.

6. (original) A print system according to claim 5, wherein said compression means
selects compression quality with a small or no data loss at the decompression time to perform the
reduction processing.

7. (currently amended) A print method, for printing read image data based on specified
print setting, ~~said print method~~ comprising:

an enlargement print process and a reduction print process;

wherein said enlargement print process comprises ~~steps of:~~

inputting print setting concerning enlargement print;

reading an original image and converting the image into image data;

compressing the image data and storing the compressed data;

reading the compressed image data and decompressing the data; and
enlarging the decompressed image data and preparing print image data; and
wherein said reduction print process comprises ~~steps of~~:

inputting print setting concerning reduction print;
reading an original image and converting the image into image data;
reducing the image data;
compressing the reduced image data and storing the compressed data;
reading the compressed image data and decompressing the data;
preparing print image data based on the decompressed image data; and
printing based on the prepared print image data.

8. (currently amended) A print method, for printing read image data based on specified print setting, ~~said print method~~ comprising:

an enlargement split print process and a reduction integration print process,
wherein said enlargement split print process comprises ~~steps of~~:

inputting print setting concerning enlargement print;
reading an original image and converting the image into image data;
compressing the image data and storing the compressed data;
reading the compressed image data and decompressing the data;
laying out the decompressed image data across pages;
enlarging the image data on the pages laid out and preparing print image data; and

printing based on the prepared print image data, and
wherein said reduction integration print process comprises ~~steps of~~:
inputting print setting concerning reduction print;
reading each original image and converting the image into image data;
reducing the image data;
compressing the reduced image data and storing the compressed data;
reading the compressed image data and decompressing the data;
laying out the decompressed image data on one page and preparing print image
data; and
printing based on the prepared print image data.

9. (currently amended) A print method according to claim 8, wherein said enlargement
split print process further comprises: ~~the steps of~~
determining whether ~~or not~~ a blank page occurs; and
canceling print of the blank page ~~if~~ when it is determined that a blank page occurs
between the ~~step of~~ laying out the decompressed image data and the printing across pages and the
~~step of printing based on the prepared print image data.~~

10. (original) A computer-readable record medium recording a program for printing read
image data based on specified print setting, said program for providing on a computer the
functions of:

reading an original image and converting the image into image data;
compressing the read image data and storing the compressed data;
reading the compressed image data and decompressing the data;
performing predetermined image processing for the image data based on the specified
print setting, thereby preparing print image data; and
controlling compression and decompression timings of the image data in response to the
contents of the image processing.

11. (original) A record medium according to claim 10, wherein the function of
compressing the read image data and storing the compressed data is adapted so that a plurality of
print qualities can be used and the compression quality to be used can be selected in response to
the contents of the image processing.

12. (new) A print system for printing comprising:
an image processor that performs predetermined image processing for image data based
on a specified print setting, thereby preparing print image data; and
a control circuit that controls compression and decompression timings of the image data
in response to the image processing performed by the image processor.

13. (new) A method for printing comprising:

performing predetermined image processing for image data based on a specified print setting, thereby preparing print image data; and

controlling compression and decompression timings of the image data in response to the image processing.

14. (new) The print method according to claim 7, further comprising controlling the compression and decompression timings of the image data in response to a request for the enlargement print process or the reduction print process.

15. (new) The print method according to claim 8, further comprising controlling the compression and decompression timings of the image data in response to a request for the enlargement split print process or the reduction integration print process.

16. (new) The print system according to claim 1, wherein, when the specified print setting indicates that an image layout is not required, the image processing is performed so that print image data, based on the input image data, is prepared without the compressing and decompressing.

17. (new) A print system, for printing read image data based on a specified print setting, comprising:

means for specifying a print setting;

an input portion for inputting image data;

means for performing predetermined image processing for the input image data based on the specified print setting;

means for compressing one of the input image data and the processed image data, and storing the compressed data in storage means;

means for reading the compressed image data from the storage means and decompressing the data; and

control means for controlling the timing, of the compression and decompression, in response to a type of the image processing performed.

18. (new) The print system according to claim 17, wherein, when the specified print setting indicates that an image layout is not required, the image processing is performed so that print image data, based on the input image data, is prepared without the compressing and decompressing.